Campus Safety Syllabus Statement

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Background:

Out of twelve institutions in the PAC-12, eight have at least some safety information listed on course syllabi. Washington State University’s mandated statement was recently amended to also include language describing an “Alert, Assess, Act” protocol for emergencies and “Run, Hide, Fight” in case of an active shooter situation. USC’s statement included where to find campus resources related to safety and emergency preparedness. Currently, there is no information regarding emergency preparedness or campus safety required to be included on course syllabi at the University of Utah.

Over the last three years, the Campus Safety Taskforce at the University of Utah has worked to address immediate and longstanding concerns regarding safety in the campus community. Most recently, the taskforce has been tasked with responding to an independent review of the University of Utah’s existing procedures, training, and systems. This taskforce is comprised of campus experts and stakeholders in the areas of physical safety, mental health, student affairs, athletics, housing, and administration from all areas of campus. The individuals on this taskforce work in subcommittees focused on specific areas of safety concerns, including training, campus organization, staffing, and more. The Training subcommittee of the Campus Safety Taskforce first discussed the inclusion of a safety statement on course syllabi in January 2019.

After a thorough review of academic policies and teaching resources of PAC-12 institutions and other higher education institutions throughout the Unites States, a draft of a statement was proposed based primary on the existing statements from USC, Washington State, and VCU.

This language has been discussed and supported by various groups before appearing before the Academic Senate. It was unanimously supported in a resolution from the ASUU Senate membership. Additionally, it has been presented to the entire Campus Safety Taskforce and was met with overwhelming support from the faculty, staff, and administrators on that body.

It is important to note that safety and sharing of safety related information are an extremely high priority for the University of Utah at this time. While many tangible efforts are being made across campus, very few are executable at no financial cost to the university community members. Inclusion of this crucial information on course syllabi will allow those syllabi to act as a resource for students at any time throughout the year. Every student on campus, regardless of year, age, major, college, or program designation has access to their course syllabi every semester. The addition of these lines to all course syllabi is a tangible way that faculty can support a campus movement towards safety and information availability.

This specific language was crafted with consultation from the Campus Police Department, Campus Safety Taskforce, ASUU Presidency, ASUU Senate, Dean of Students, and faculty, students, and staff at large. In the time since being presented at the Academic Senate Executive Committee, it has also been presented to the Council of Academic Deans.

Proposed language, to be required in all course syllabi:

Campus Safety

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity, call campus police at [801-585-COPS](tel:801-585-COPS) ([801-585-2677](tel:801-585-2677)). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit [safeu.utah.edu](http://safeu.utah.edu).